

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, March 28, 2003

MPDC REMAINS ON HEIGHTENED ALERT

The MPDC remained at its Emergency Response Level II this week (Level III being the highest), as the Department continued to be on guard for terrorist activity while also managing ongoing anti-war protests in DC. The Department's Joint Operations Command Center (JOCC) remained activated, including the network of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras that focus primarily on downtown DC. MPDC officers continued to pay special attention to bridges, water treatment facilities and other infrastructure, as well as other potential targets for terrorism. On Tuesday (March 25), Chief Ramsey rescinded the earlier order putting all sworn members on 12-hour shifts, but officers are returning to the extended shifts on Sunday morning (March 30), in anticipation of increased protest activity. The Department arrested just over a dozen anti-war protesters for blocking the intersection of 14th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, during the Friday morning rush hour. Additional anti-war protests are expected in DC in the days ahead. Chief Ramsey said that extending officers' shifts is needed so that the Department can maintain regular police patrols in DC neighborhoods, while also guarding against any possible terrorist strikes and managing the demonstrations.

① For more information, including helpful links, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=1986>

① The MPDC is assisting the FBI in a nationwide lookout for Adnan G. El Shukrijumah, who is possibly involved with al-Qaeda terrorist activities. More information, including photos of this individual, is available on the FBI website:
<http://www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel03/mueller032003.htm>

CHIEF RAMSEY SWEARS IN 30 NEW OFFICERS

Chief Ramsey administered the oath of office to the 30 newest members of the MPDC, during graduation ceremonies Friday afternoon (March 28). Members of Recruit Officer Classes 2002-04 and 2002-05 completed approximately six months of training at the Maurice T. Turner Jr., Institute of Police Science. They pinned their badges on for the first time in front of family, friends and other well-wishers during ceremonies at the US Department of Interior in Northwest. In remarks to the new officers, Chief Ramsey said that with war abroad and the threat of terrorism at home, they are entering the policing profession "at a unique and challenging time for our nation, for our nation's capital, for the Metropolitan Police Department and for the communities we serve." But the Chief also reminded the officers that as much as national and international events may impact the MPDC, "the number one priority of the Metropolitan Police Department is the safety of our citizens—the people who call the District of Columbia their home. That will never change," he said. He urged the new officers to put their community policing training into action, and to always treat people with dignity and respect. The 30 new officers will be detailed for one week to assist with prisoner control operations, and then will be assigned to PSA patrols in various police districts.

① For more information about the March 15 deployment, visit:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=1966>

① Additional information about the CCTV network, including the locations of the 14 permanent cameras, can be found at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=1966>

AS THE WEATHER WARMS UP, MPDC URGES RESIDENTS TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR CON ARTISTS

Warmer springtime temperatures are beginning to find their way to DC. And while spring means the blooming of the cherry blossoms and other flowers, it can also bring out con artists and other criminals seeking to profit from unsuspecting victims. Some of the most common cons and swindles are bogus home repair offers, fraudulent door-to-door charities, and individuals

posing as police officers or bank investigators trying to identify fraudulent tellers or counterfeit schemes. DC residents are urged to be wary of any “something-for-nothing” offers. Read over all offers and contracts before you sign, and never agree to “cash-only” deals. Do not hesitate to check the credentials of anyone who comes to your door. Ask to see official identification and inspect it carefully; legitimate organizations—especially real police officers—will not hesitate to comply. And if you have been victimized by a con artist, please call the police and report it. This is the only way that law enforcement can detect patterns and identify and apprehend offenders.

SPOTLIGHT ON...THE EVIDENCE CONTROL BRANCH

Each year, the MPDC handles more than 100,000 cases involving seized or recovered property and even more individual pieces of property—Everything from motor vehicles and bicycles to jewelry, electronic equipment and other valuables. Managing this process is the responsibility of the MPDC’s Evidence Control Branch. This specialized unit approaches its job with two goals in mind: (1) to secure, catalog and store property in a safe manner, and (2) to return all property to its rightful owners as quickly and efficiently as possible. If you have property that has been recovered by the MPDC in the course of a criminal investigation, the Evidence Control Branch wants to work with you in reuniting you and your property. However, unit officials advise people to be patient in this process, as some property cannot be released back to its rightful owner until judicial proceedings have been completed. Property owners are reminded that, to recover items, they will always need photo identification (such as a driver’s license, employment identification or government identification card) and some proof of ownership (such as a vehicle registration or title, a purchase receipt or, in some cases, a photograph of the property). The Evidence Control Branch is located at 2235 Shannon Place, SE, and is open Monday through Friday, from 7:30 am to 4 pm. The phone number is (202) 645-0130.

NEWS & NOTES

FY2004 Budget Hearing. The DC Council’s Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing on the MPDC’s proposed \$379 million budget for Fiscal Year 2004, on Monday, March 31, in the Council Chambers at the Wilson Building. Chief Ramsey is scheduled to testify.

Ask the Chief. Chief Ramsey takes phone calls and emails this Thursday (April 3) from 10-11 am, during his monthly program on WTOP radio. Submit your emails ahead of time by visiting <http://www.wtop.com>

Police Communications Operator Vacancies. The closing date for applications for police communications operators in DC’s Public Safety Communications Center is Monday, March 31. Several vacancies are available. Details at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/civilian.shtml>

2003 Boating Safety Classes. Boating Safety Courses offered by the MPDC’s Harbor Patrol Unit are under way. These courses are required for individuals to receive a Boating Safety Certificate. Details at http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/season/harborclasses_03.shtml

Cafritz Awards for Outstanding Employees. Members of the community are invited to nominate an outstanding employee from the MPDC (or any DC government agency) for the 2003 Cafritz Foundation Awards for Distinguished DC Government Employees. The deadline for nominations is April 2. Get complete details, including a copy of the one-page nomination form, on the DC Agenda website <http://www.dcagenda.org>.

① For more information about con games and swindles, click on: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/consumer/avoidswindles.shtml>

① If your community organization is interested in a presentation on con games and swindles—or on any other crime prevention topic—contact the MPDC’s Community Outreach Section at (202) 727-0783.

① To get more information about the Evidence Control Branch and the procedures for recovering property, click on: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/units/ecb.shtml>

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 3/28/03)

- 2003: 53
- 2002: 55
- % Change: -3.6%

Arrests (week ending 3/22/03)

- Total: 744
- Drugs: 84

Firearm Recoveries (as of 3/25/03)

- Total: 448
- March: 123

Traffic Fatalities (as of 3/28/03)

- 2003: 7
- 2002: 14
- % Change: -50.0%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC’s Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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